

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LENING 00537 061038Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 DHA-02 INR-07 NSC-05
CIAE-00 /044 W

-----061104Z 043310 /22

R 050803Z MAY 77
FM AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3130
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L L E N I N G R A D 0 5 3 7

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4
TAGS: PFOR, CASC, PINR, PINS, PINT, PROP, UR
SUBJ: LENINGRAD DISSIDENT ARTISTS IN RELATIVE DISARRAY

REF: A. LENINGRAD 461, B. LENINGRAD 257, C. LENINGRAD 136
D. MOSCOW 3790

1. EFFORTS OF LENINGRAD OFFICIALS TO SPLIT THE
UNOFFICIAL ARTISTS MOVEMENT BY OFFERING MODEST
INDUCEMENTS TO THE COMPLAINT WHILE TRYING TO INCAPACITATE
ACTIVISTS THROUGH THREATS, EMIGRATION, AND HARSH
COUNTERMEASURES, SEEM FOR THE MOMENT TO BE WORKING
EFFECTIVELY. ONSET OF GOOD WEATHER THIS YEAR HAS
BROUGHT WITH IT ONLY A MODERATE QUICKENING OF RESOLVE
AMONG THE MORE ACTIVIST ARTISTS AND WE SEE LITTLE
ON THE HORIZON AT THE MOMENT WHICH IS LIKELY TO
CAUSE LOCAL OFFICIALS MUCH REAL CONCERN.

2. ONLY POSSIBLE EXCEPTION COULD BE FORTHCOMING
MEMORIAL EXHIBITION OF FIRST ANNIVERSARY
OF RUKHIN'S DEATH (REF A). HOWEVER, JUDGING BY
PREPARATIONS TO DATE, WE ARE NOW LESS INCLINED THAN
PREVIOUSLY TO BELIEVE THAT IT WILL DEVELOP INTO KIND
OF DEMONSTRATIVE POLITICAL ACT WHICH AUTHORITIES HERE
HAVE MADE PATENTLY CLEAR THEY WILL NOT TOLERATE.
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EXHIBITIONS PROBABLY WILL BE CONFINED TO MEMORIAL
MASS AT NIKOL'SKY CATHEDRAL ON MAY 24, OPEN HOUSE
SAME DAY BY RUKHIN'S WIDOW GALINA POPOVA, AND THREE
DAY SHOWING OF RUKHIN'S WORKS AT APARTMENTS POPOVA,
NATALIYA KAZARINOVA, AND GEORGIY MIKHAILOV MAY 24-
26. WE KNOW OF NO MOVES THUS FAR TO INCLUDE OTHER
DISSIDENT ARTISTS IN THIS EXHIBITION OR EXPAND IT

INTO DEFIANT ACTIVIST DEMONSTRATION ALONG LINES ABORTIVE
PETER AND PAUL FORTRESS EXHIBITION HONORING RUKHIN
LAST YEAR.

3. UNDOUBTEDLY THIS REFLECTS CHANGE OF MOOD WHICH
HAS TAKEN PLACE HERE IN PAST YEAR. NUMBER OF LEADING
ACTIVISTS WERE PERMITTED TO EMIGRATE THIS PAST
FALL AND WINTER, INCLUDING ABEZGAUZ, RAPAPORT,
BUGRIN AND LEONOV, AND VICIOUSNESS OF REACTION AGAINST
KAZARINOV IN CONNECTION WITH ULITSA DRESDENSKAYA
EXHIBITION (REF C) HAS BEEN SOBERING. HE IS NOW
TOTALLY OUT OF WORK AND COUPLE IS LIVING OFF
LARGESS KAZARINOV'S MOTHER WHO IS DIRECTOR, APTEKA
NO. 1 IN MOSCOW. MEANWHILE, LENINGRAD AUTHORITIES
HAVE INCREASED "CARROTS" TO THE UNOFFICIALS THIS
SPRING. MORE UN OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO
EXHIBIT AND LOCATION OF SHOWINGS HAS IMPROVED.

4. UNDOUBTEDLY MOST SURPRISING DEVELOPMENT THIS LATTER
AREA HAS BEEN CULTURAL DIRECTORATE'S APPROVAL V.
OVCHINNIKOV'S REQUEST FOR ONE-MAN EXHIBITION.
EXHIBITION IS SCHEDULED BE HELD MAY 15-30 AT HISTORIC
YUSUPOV PALACE, CURRENTLY ASSIGNED TO TEACHER'S UNION,
WHICH LOCATED ONLY FEW BLOCKS FROM ST. ISAAC'S SQUARE.
AS USUAL, CULTURAL DIRECTORATE HAS RESERVED RIGHT TO
REVIEW ALL PAINTINGS, BUT THERE IS NO SIGN THAT
OVCHINNIKOV WILL SIMPLY CAVE IN TO AUTHORITIES DESPITE
STRONG INDUCEMENT TO DO SO. HE IS ADAMANTLY INSISTING
THAT HE WILL PULL OUT OF EXHIBITION IF MORE THAN A FEW
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OF HIS PAINTINGS ARE REJECTED AND HE CONTINUES, ALONG
WITH KAZARINOV, TO REMAIN LENINGRAD'S MAJOR LINK WITH
MOSCOW'S DISSIDENT ARTISTS, ESPECIALLY RABIN-KIBLITSKY-
AMARANTOV GROUP.

5. IN OTHER INDUCEMTNS TO UNOFFICIALS, LENINGRAD
AUTHORITIES:

-- PERMITTED AN EXHIBITION OF FOUR UNOFFICIAL
ARTISTS--GLEB BOGOMOLOV, EVGENIY GORUNOV, IGOR IVANOV
AND NIKOLAY LUBUSHKIN-- AT HOUSE OF WRITERS IN MARC#;
-- ALLOWED AT LEAST ONE UNOFFICIAL, IVANOV, TO
EXHIBIT IN CURRENT EXHIBITION OF CONTEMPORARY PORTRAIT
PAINTING AT THE RUSSIAN MUSEUM.

6. HOWEVER, THERE ARE STRAWS IN THE WIND THAT OFFICIAL
LARGESS IS ABOUT TO END FOR THIS YEAR. ACCORDING TO
ONE ACCOUNT, CULTURAL OFFICIALS HAVE NOT FOLLOWED THROUGH
ON THEIR PROMISE TO UNOFFICIALS EARLIER ENCOURAGED
TO JOIN NEWLY ORGANIZED GORKOM ARTIST ORGANIZATION.

ORGANIZATION CONTINUES TO CONSIST ONLY OF DIRECTOR, NIKITA SHERBIN, AND GROUP OF CONFUSED UNOFFICIALS WHO, HAVING JOINED, SUBSEQUENTLY HAVE BEEN LEFT OUT IN THE COLD WITH NO ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND NO EXHIBITIONS. IN ADDITION, OVCHINNIKOV WAS TOLD INFORMALLY BY CULTURAL DIRECTORATE OFFICIAL THAT, IN CONNECTION WITH 60TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF OCTOBER REVOLUTION, NO UNOFFICIAL EXHIBITIONS WILL BE AUTHORIZED AFTER JULY 1.

7. MEANWHILE, NO SUB-GROUP ON THE ARTS OF HELSINKI MONITORING GROUP (REF D) HAS BEEN SET UP IN LENINGRAD. POSSIBILITY WAS DISCUSSED WITH THE MOSCOW INITIATORS BY OVCHINNIKOV AND KAZARINOV, BUT OVCHINNIKOV HAS TOLD US THAT FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES MATTER IS MORIBUND IN LENINGRAD. NEUBERT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, HARASSMENT, INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION, DEPENDENTS, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, ARTISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 05-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LENING00537
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770159-0754
Format: TEL
From: LENINGRAD
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770590/aaaadadg.tel
Line Count: 131
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 3b7d179a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 LENINGRAD 461, 77 LENINGRAD 257, 77 LENINGRAD 136, 77 MOSCOW 3790
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2633048
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LENINGRAD DISSIDENT ARTISTS IN RELATIVE DISARRAY
TAGS: PFOR, CASC, PINR, PINS, PINT, PROP, UR, (RUKHINA, GALINA POPOVVA), (RUKHINA, YEVGENIY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/3b7d179a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009